



The Kingfisher

TROUT LAKE NATURE CENTER *December 2016 ~ March 2017*

Volunteer Introduces Movie Night at TLNC

Sarah Hetman's environmental politics class at UCF included a requirement that she complete twenty volunteer hours in the field. So the Tavares High



School graduate approached TLNC, discussed volunteer opportunities, and was invited to fulfill her requirement with TLNC.

Sarah decided to introduce a summertime movie night designed for

young people. In addition to selecting the monthly nature-oriented movie, she worked with Executive Director Eileen Tramontana to develop a marketing plan for the activity, creating flyers and posting the activity on Facebook.

"It was impressive," said TLNC Program Assistant Laurie Peterson. "She took the initiative to try a new program, and worked through the details of introducing the program to the public."

In the process, "I learned a lot about nature, met other people who also were interested in learning about nature and realized how often people don't realize the harm they cause to the natural world," Sarah said. "It was awesome," she said of the experience. "I hope next summer I can do movie night again!"

For her long-term goals, Sarah, who is 20 years old, hasn't decided. She enjoys classes in political science and creative writing, has contemplated becoming a neurosurgeon. For now, she says, "I love school."

Planting the Seeds of Volunteerism

Matt Cook and Jorge Gauvin, both 17 years old and seniors at Eustis High School, discovered Trout Lake Nature Center through commitments to scouting organizations. Neither expected to make a long-term volunteer commitment.

"I needed service hours for both scouts and school," said Matt, who plans to enter ADU in Orlando next year with a long-term goal of becoming an anesthesiologist. He obtained the needed service hours... and kept returning. "I like it here," he explained. "I like being outdoors and I like helping people."



Jorge's willingness to help a friend with his Eagle Scout project led him to TLNC. The project concluded with the awarding of a Merit Badge... and, Jorge added, "I kept coming back."

His post-education goal is to pursue a career in music—specifically, "playing a tuba professionally." But his experience at TLNC has introduced him to a new world, that of a not-for-profit organization operating "on a shoestring," and the importance of volunteerism.

Matt and Jorge can be found wherever work needs to be done. That may be "litter patrol" at the fence along East CR44, performing basic maintenance tasks, and the multitude of tasks known as "critter care": cleaning reptile turtle enclosures and aquarium filters, and feeding the turtles.

A very heartfelt
thank you
to our generous supporters

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDERS

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Lake County Schools
Lake County Water Authority

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NEW MEMBERS

Ron and Jan Neibert, Eustis
Kathryn and Anthony
Mennella, Altoona
Gail Palmer, Sorrento and
Bloomfield CT
Randa Robinson-Anderson,
Lady Lake

**Volunteer
Trina Raether
Reflects on
14 Years as a
TLNC Educator**

When Trina Raether and husband, Bud, moved to Eustis from Homestead in late 2002 and when getting acquainted with the area, they read a notice of a meeting of the Lake County Conservation Council. The topic was the "Chain of Lakes"—a subject somewhat unfamiliar to a couple who had lived in close proximity to the ocean and the Everglades.

They attended the meeting and met Fran and Bernie Yokel. The couples discussed the Raethers' interest in the region and its ecology, and when Trina's background—30 years of teaching special needs students in Miami Dade County—came up, their new friends seized the moment: "We belong to Trout Lake Nature Center and we're looking for someone with teaching experience."

The following day, she received a call from the TLNC naturalist. Trina agreed to join the team, and had served as an education volunteer for a year when she was asked to become education chair. As she reflects on the moment now—and the fact that "we had a really good group of volunteers"—she says simply, "somehow, I agreed."

Fast forward to winter 2016: the educational program has expanded, with new programs and a revised curriculum. Raether, working with the TLNC board of directors, executive director and a team of dedicated volunteers revamped the curriculum and developed new field experiences for elementary school children.

Last school year, TLNC's school programs brought about 5,350 students—pre-K and kindergarten through grade 5—to the Nature Center, where they participated in age-appropriate programming that included aquifer, watershed and water quality studies.

All activities and programs are correlated to Florida education standards, and updated to comply with—and exceed—those standards.

There are many measures of the program's success. One, which brings Trina great pleasure, is when high-school or college students come back to TLNC and ask to volunteer... "because they have such positive memories of their experiences in elementary school."



CONSERVE

PROTECT

EDUCATE

Volunteerism—Embedded in our Culture

Trout Lake Nature Center began as an ambitious dream when Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society (OVAS) volunteers embarked on an effort to purchase the 230 acres of land it now occupies. A series of yard sales, sponsored trips and various other fundraisers—planned and staffed by volunteers—provided the seed money that turned the dream into reality.

That was 27 years ago. Today a museum and nature center, with collections of preserved birds, reptiles and mammals, attract local residents and visitors from distant areas. Many walk the network of trails and boardwalks, and relax on the lakeside deck.

A multitude of educational programs, designed to appeal to ages ranging from pre-school children to their grandparents, fill each month's calendar. Our educational programs served 7,332 students this past school year.



And all of this—as well as the maintenance and upgrading of facilities and grounds—is made possible by volunteers. We've highlighted a sampling of them in this newsletter.

We are about to embark on a

significant expansion, with new classroom, museum and office space, and improvements to our parking and traffic pattern. To achieve our goals, we will need to raise \$1,250,000.

I have made the decision to step aside as president of the board of directors and to focus my time and energies on the capital building campaign—working to make this audacious plan a reality. Board members—who also are volunteers—have agreed to take on new responsibilities to support this effort.

At our annual meeting in January, Stan Napier, current board secretary, has agreed to run for the office of president while, Morris Pelham, a long time director, will run for vice president. I will lend my support, running for the office of secretary. Stuart Anderson, Margie LaRoe, Ron Niebert and Horace Thompson, all directors, have agreed to run as directors and continue to serve TLNC.

I thank all the Board members for their tireless efforts and for the energy and enthusiasm they bring to Trout Lake Nature Center and the vision for TLNC's future.

Joan Bryant, President

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Skip Babb
Virginia Barker
Fred Hunter
Chuck Kegley
Peter Kehde
Bill Milton
Mike Perry
Mike Stephens
B.E. Thompson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Joan Bryant
Secretary: Stan Napier
Treasurer: Dee Bender
Stuart Anderson
Jeff Friberg
Margie LaRoe
Ron Neibert
Morris Pelham
Horace Thompson
Director Emeritus: Bernie Yokel

STAFF

Executive Director:
Eileen Tramontana
tlnc.director@gmail.com
Program Assistant:
Laurie Peterson
tlnc.info@gmail.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Education: Trina Raether
Maintenance: Morris Pelham
Exhibits: Donna Kelley
Website: Laura Williams

Hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 9 to 4 and Sunday 1 to 4, closed Monday



TROUT LAKE NATURE CENTER
520 EAST CR 44
EUSTIS FL 32736

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Calling All Volunteers!

If the stories contained in this issue have inspired you to get involved, Laurie Peterson would like to talk with you. TLNC thrives because of the diversified skills, talents and interests of our volunteers.

From age 14 to senior citizens, people with skills ranging from “critter care” to carpentry, from education to event planning, gardening or graphic design, office work or outdoor (yard) work, and a multitude of other options, all contribute to the success of TLNC.

Our volunteers learn while sharing their skills and gain satisfaction from being part of an organization dedicated to preserving our little slice of the natural world—and to educating about its importance.

Contact Laurie at 352.357.7536 or tlnc.info@gmail.com. **Support TLNC and volunteer!**



Purchase new wildlife mounts. These are needed to replace aging mounts and fill in much needed gaps. Mounts range from \$ 200 to \$ 300.

Purchase interpretive signs. These are needed on TLNC trails, and for exhibits and kiosks. Costs range from \$ 20 to \$ 200.

Replace entrance sign panels damaged in the hurricane. Estimated cost \$ 1,000.

Purchase split rail fence material. Estimated cost \$ 1,500.

This is the beginning of the season for giving. Register at AmazonSmile.com and iGive.com so a small percentage of your online purchases will go to the non-profit you select.

Purchase an acre for one year at \$ 100 at TLNC through the Acre-by-Acre Program.

Please help make this happen!

Contributions should be made to Trout Lake Nature Center. Your donation may be considered tax deductible since TLNC is a 501(c)(3) organization (Certificate #85-8013587610C-8.)

Become a Member of TLNC

Name _____

Email _____

Street _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Levels of Membership. Please check one.

- Student \$5
- Individual \$25
- Family \$35
- Nonprofit/Public Agencies \$40
- Business/Professional \$100
- Life Member \$1,000

Complete and Return with your Dues to:
 TLNC, 520 E. CR 44, Eustis, FL 32736-2518.
 Make checks payable to Trout Lake Nature Center, Inc.

troutlakenaturecenter.com 352.357.7536 tlnc.info@gmail.com

Calendar of Events

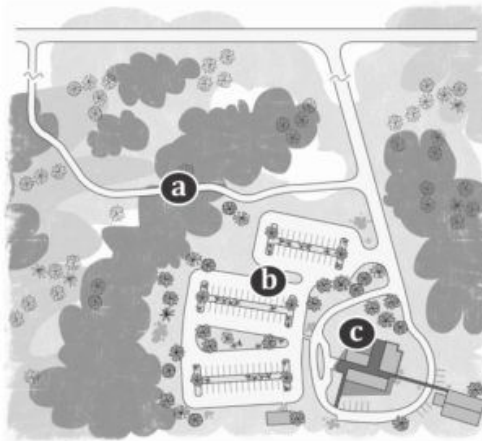
December	January
<p>3–Saturday: Bird Count and Nature Walk, 8 AM.</p> <p>3–Saturday: Off the Beaten Path Art Studio Tour, 10 AM to 5 PM</p> <p>4–Sunday: Off the Beaten Path Art Studio Tour, Noon to 5 PM</p> <p>4 through 10: Trout Lake Nature Center Week</p> <p>6–Tuesday: Chili’s Give Back Day, all day</p> <p>7–Wednesday: Discovery Eco-Adventure Boat Tour, 10 AM to Noon.</p> <p>9–Friday: Trout Lake Daycation, go to www.universe.com/daycation for info.</p> <p>10Saturday: TLNC/OVAS/FNPS Annual Holiday Potluck, noon.</p> <p>10–Saturday: LEEF Annual Holiday Event, 4 to 8 PM.</p> <p>11–Sunday: Acorn People Nature Craft, 2 to 4 PM. Cost \$5.</p> <p>16–Friday Night Naturalist, 6 PM, Eastern Indigo Snake, live specimens present.</p> <p>17–Saturday: Folk Music, potluck at 7 PM and music at 7:45 PM.</p> <p>18–Sunday: Lights in the Woods, 6 to 8 PM. Cost \$5 per vehicle.</p> <p>20, 22, 27 and 29: Breakfast at the Rookery, 6:30 AM until the birds have flown. Cost \$5 per person.</p> <p>24–Saturday: Closed at noon for holiday.</p> <p>25–Sunday: Closed for Holiday.</p> <p>27–Tuesday: TLNC Board Meeting, 2 PM.</p> <p>28–Wednesday: Nature Sprouts, 10 to 11 AM, children 2 to 5 years old. Register at universe.com/naturesprouts.</p>	<p>1Sunday: Closed for Holiday</p> <p>7–Saturday: Bird Count and Nature Walk, 8 AM.</p> <p>10–Tuesday: OVAS Membership Meeting and Presentation on the Galapagos Islands, 3 PM.</p> <p>15–Sunday: FL Native Plant Society Meeting and Presentation, 2 PM.</p> <p>16–Monday: Education Instructor Training, 9–Noon.</p> <p>20–Friday Night Naturalist, 6 PM. TBA.</p> <p>21–Saturday: Folk Music, potluck at 7 PM and music at 7:45 PM.</p> <p>24–Tuesday: TLNC Board Meeting, 2 PM.</p> <p>25–Wednesday: Nature Sprouts, 10 to 11 AM, children 2 to 5 years old. Register at universe.com/naturesprouts.</p> <p>28–Saturday: TLNC Annual Membership Meeting and Elections, Noon to 3 PM.</p>
<p>Remember to check for updated information at www.troutlakenaturecenter.com or our Facebook page for date or time changes. Additions placed on the website calendar and Facebook page.</p> <p>Interested in helping or volunteering? Contact Laurie Peterson, tlnc.info@gmail.com or 352-357-7536.</p> <p>Education instructor training is held on the third Monday from 9 AM to Noon.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">February</p> <p>4–Saturday: Bird Count and Nature Walk, 8 AM.</p> <p>4–Saturday: Sunset at the Trout Lake Rookery, wine, cheese, dinner fundraiser, cost \$40, 4:30 to 8:30 PM.</p> <p>5–Sunday: Folk Music Matinee, 2:30–4:30 PM.</p> <p>14–Tuesday: OVAS Membership Meeting and Presentation on Living with Sandhill Cranes 3 PM.</p> <p>17–Friday Night Naturalist, 6 PM, Plant it, They Will Come.</p> <p>18–Saturday: Folk Music, potluck at 7 PM and music at 7:45 PM.</p> <p>20–Monday: Education Instructor Training, 9–Noon.</p> <p>22–Wednesday: Nature Sprouts, 10 to 11 AM, children 2 to 5 years old. Register at universe.com/naturesprouts.</p> <p>28–Tuesday: TLNC Board Meeting, 2 PM.</p>
	<p>Maintenance work days are held every Monday from 8:15 to 11:30. Maintenance work takes place at other times of the week to accommodate our volunteer’s schedules.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Volunteers make it happen!</p>

We Need Your Help

Please Contribute to our Capital Building Campaign

We estimate the cost of this project will be \$1,250,000. We have the first \$250,000 and need to raise an additional million. WE NEED ALL OF YOU TO HELP!

Give whatever amount you can - \$10 to \$10,000 - all will be appreciated



WE WILL ...

- a** Create a better traffic pattern with a one way exit road
Connect to the city's sewer and get rid of our above ground septic tanks
- b** Provide parking for 80 cars
Build a new perimeter road
Remove cars from the meadow/teaching area
Create a better bus loading/unloading area
Add handicap parking
- c** Build additional office space
Build a classroom which can be converted into two smaller classrooms
Create a museum to replace our aging double-wide trailer
Build outdoor accessible bathrooms
Add a meeting room

Complete and return with your donation to: TLNC, 520 E. CR 44, Eustis, FL 32736-2518.

Please make checks payable to Trout Lake Nature Center, Inc. and memo "Building"

Name _____ Email _____
Street Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

TROUT LAKE NATURE CENTER, 520 EAST CR 44, EUSTIS, FL 32736